

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /091 W
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R 250630Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2845

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS TOKYO 8307

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJECT: MAINICHI UPPER HOUSE ELECTION POLL

SUMMARY: MAINICHI SHIMBUN TOOK POLITICAL PULSE OF JAPAN'S VOTERS ON EVE OF UPPER HOUSE ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND CONCLUDED TENTATIVELY THAT COMBINED OPPOSITION PARTIES WOULD NOT UPSET LDP. END SUMMARY.

1. MAINICHI SHIMBUN JUNE 22 ANNOUNCED RESULTS OF FIRST PRE-ELECTION POLL OF VOTER SENTIMENTS WE HAVE SEEN. BASED ON NATIONWIDE RANDOM SAMPLE OF 3,000 ELIGIBLE VOTERS POLLED JUNE 12-14, MAINICHI TENTATIVELY CONCLUDED THAT COMBINED OPPOSITION PARTIES UNLIKELY TO UPSET LDP, THUS CORROBORATING GENERAL IMPRESSION OF POLITICAL OBSERVERS THAT LDP WILL MAINTAIN MAJORITY IN JULY 7 UPPER HOUSE ELECTION.

2. POLL DISCLOSED IDENTICAL SUPPORT FOR LDP AND COMBINED OPPOSITION PARTIES (FORTY-FOUR PERCENT EACH) AMONG SIXTY-TWO PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE ALREADY CHOSEN PARTY OR CANDIDATE TO VOTE FOR. MAINICHI SUPPORTED TENTATIVE INTERPRETATION OF ABOVE FIGURES THAT COMBINED OPPOSITION UNLIKELY TO WIN CONTROL OF UPPER HOUSE BY RECALLING THAT LDP WON HALF OF SEATS IN 1971 ELECTION (63 OF 126) WITH SMILAR FORTY-FOUR PERCENT SHARE
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OF VOTE. EXTRAPOLATION, BY IMPLICATION, IS THAT LDP SHOULD

WIN 65 OF 130 SEATS THIS TIME, WHICH ADDED TO 64 HOLDOVERS WOULD GIVE IT SLIM MAJORITY OF 129 IN 252 SEAT UPPER HOUSE.

3. MAINICHI DISCOUNTED POSSIBLE IMPACT OF 35 PERCENT OF UNDECIDED RESPONDENTS ON GROUNDS THAT 40 PERCENT OF THEM PROFESSED NO INTEREST IN CONSERVATIVE-REFORMIST CONFRONTATION IN THIS ELECTION. UNDECIDED WERE DESCRIBED AS MOSTLY 20-30 YEAR OLD RESIDENTS OF TEN MAJOR CITIES.

4. THREE OUT OF FOUR RESPONDENTS (74.2 PERCENT) VOICED HOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT OF PRESENT UNSATISFACTORY LIVING CONDITIONS, BUT EXPLICITLY RULED OUT DRASTIC POLITICAL, ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL REFORMS. MAJORITY HOPED FOR INCREASE IN SEATS FOR EITHER LDP OR JSP, BUT FEW WISHED TO SEE FURTHER INCREASE BY JCP.

5. POLL DISCLOSED SLIGHT BUT SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN SUPPORT FOR TANAKA GOVERNMENT, COMPARED TO PREVIOUS POLL IN DECEMBER 1973, FROM 22 TO 24 PERCENT. NON-SUPPORT DECLINED EQUIVALENT AMOUNT, FROM 47 TO 45 PERCENT.

6. SUPPORT FOR LDP INCREASED OVER SAME PERIOD FROM 36 TO 40 PERCENT. JSP SUPPORT ALSO INCREASED FROM 20 TO 24 PERCENT. KOMEITO AND JCP SUPPORT STOOD AT 5 PERCENT, AND DSP 4 PERCENT, WITH 20 PERCENT OF SAMPLE EXPRESSING NO PARTY PREFERENCE.

7. FOLLOWING IS BREAKDOWN OF SUPPORT FOR PARTIES IN NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY AMONG DECIDED RESPONDENTS (LOCAL CONSTITUENCY IN PARENTHESES):

LDP	44 PERCENT	(44 PERCENT)
JSP	26 PERCENT	(27 PERCENT)
JCP	7 PERCENT	(7 PERCENT)
KOMEITO	7 PERCENT	(7 PERCENT)
DSP	4 PERCENT	(3 PERCENT).

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEWSPAPERS, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, POLITICAL PARTIES, POPULAR SUPPORT, UPPER HOUSE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO08307
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740166-0818
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740614/aaaaaluq.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 NOV 2002 by smithrj>; APPROVED <13 JAN 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAINICHI UPPER HOUSE ELECTION POLL SUMMARY: MAINICHI SHIMBUN TOOK POLITICAL PULSE OF JAPAN'S VOTERS
TAGS: PINT, JA, LDP, MAINICHI SHIMBUN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005